

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS:

A complete listing of the claims is provided below. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

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36. (Previously Presented) A return-side filter for filtering a return fluid in a vehicle transmission, the return-side filter comprising:

a pan having a bottom interior surface, a peripheral sidewall extending upwardly from the bottom interior surface, and a peripheral flange extending laterally outward from an upper end of the peripheral sidewall;

a lid having a top interior surface, a peripheral sidewall extending downwardly from the top interior surface, and a peripheral flange extending laterally outward from a lower end of the peripheral sidewall;

a sheet of filter media spaced above the bottom interior surface and substantially spanning the pan, the filter media having a peripheral edge portion that is sealingly clamped between the lower side of the peripheral flange of the lid and the upper side of the peripheral flange of the pan, and an inlet aperture extending through the filter media, the inlet aperture being spaced laterally inwardly of the peripheral edge portion;

an inlet port extending vertically through the peripheral flange of the lid and located laterally between the peripheral sidewall of the lid and the peripheral sidewall of the pan, the inlet port being sealingly connected to the inlet aperture of the filter media and being operable to initially direct the return fluid below the filter media; and

an outlet opening extending through the top interior surface of the lid and located above the filter media and operable to release the return fluid, wherein the filter media is operable to filter fluid flowing from the inlet to the outlet.

37. (Previously Presented) The return-side filter as set forth in claim 36, further including spacers projecting upwardly from the bottom surface of the pan and operable to support the filter media above the bottom surface.

38. (Previously Presented) The return-side filter as set forth in claim 36, wherein the outlet opening comprises a slot in the lid.

39. (Previously Presented) A vehicle transmission utilizing a fluid, the vehicle transmission comprising:

a sump operable to receive the fluid via a sump inlet;

a return-side filter operable to filter at least a return fluid portion of the fluid, the return-side filter including:

a pan having a bottom interior surface, a peripheral sidewall extending upwardly from the bottom interior surface, and a peripheral flange extending laterally outward from an upper end of the peripheral sidewall;

a lid having a top interior surface, a peripheral sidewall extending downwardly from the top interior surface, and a peripheral flange extending laterally outward from a lower end of the peripheral sidewall;

a sheet of filter media spaced above the bottom interior surface and substantially spanning the pan, the filter media having a peripheral edge portion that is sealingly clamped between the lower side of the peripheral flange of the lid and the upper side of the peripheral flange of the pan, and an inlet aperture extending through the filter media, the inlet aperture being spaced laterally inwardly of the peripheral edge portion;

an inlet port extending vertically through the peripheral flange of the lid and located laterally between the peripheral sidewall of the lid and the peripheral sidewall of the pan, the inlet port being sealingly connected to the inlet aperture of the filter media and being operable to initially direct the return fluid below the filter media; and

an outlet opening extending through the top interior surface of the lid and located above the filter media and operable to release the return fluid, wherein the filter media is operable to filter fluid flowing from the inlet to the outlet.

40. (Previously Presented) The vehicle transmission as set forth in claim 39, further including spacers projecting upwardly from the bottom surface of the pan and operable to support the filter media above the bottom surface.

41. (Previously Presented) The vehicle transmission as set forth in claim 39, wherein the return fluid is released into the sump.

42. (Previously Presented) The vehicle transmission as set forth in claim 39, wherein the outlet opening comprises a slot in the lid.